

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 01152 101427Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
PC-01 OMB-01 DHA-02 /065 W
-----110036Z 106182 /63

R 100110Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3637
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 1152

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, ES, HO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT-ELECT ROMERO PLANS TOUR THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA
AND PANAMA

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1013

1. PRESIDENT-ELECT GENERAL CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO
ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS ON MARCH 5 THAT HE PLANS A PRE-
INAUGURATION TOUR OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA. ROMERO STATED
THAT HE WOULD USE THE TRIP TO HELP HIM FORMULATE FUTURE
GOVERNMENT PLANS.

2. ROMERO STATED THAT A MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE TOUR WOULD
BE TO ENTER INTO DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH HIS FUTURE
CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLEAGUES, WHICH HE BELIEVED WILL BE TO
THE BETTERMENT OF THE AREA. IN REPLY TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION,
HE SAID THAT HE VERY MUCH WANTED TO MEET
WITH PRESIDENT MELGAR ON HONDURAN SOIL, BUT, IF THAT WERE
NOT POSSIBLE, HE WOULD TALK WITH HIM ANYWHERE

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 01152 101427Z

MELGAR DESIGNATED. ROMERO REPEATED HIS HOPE FOR A SPEEDUP IN
THE SEARCH FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

3. PRIOR TO ROMERO'S ANNOUNCEMENT, THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN TOLD BY
SEVERAL CIVILIAN ADVISERS TO THE GENERAL THAT HE WANTED
TO MAKE A TRIP TO WASHINGTON BEFORE HIS INAUGURATION. THE THOUGHT
WAS THAT ROMERO COULD TALK TO CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER CRITICS OF
EL SALVADOR AND DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS A LIKEABLE AND WELL-

PREPARED PRESIDENT-ELECT. ROMERO HAS APPARENTLY DROPPED THIS IDEA. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES HE DID SO WHEN HE REALIZED THAT HE MIGHT FACE HOSTILE, POSSIBLY INSULTING QUESTIONS AND ACCUSATIONS FROM THE US PRESS AND OTHERS RE EVENTS SURROUNDING HIS ELECTION. HIS ADVISERS ALSO HAD SECOND THOUGHTS WHEN THEY SAW HOW THE GENERAL HANDLED HIMSELF WITH THE FEW FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO INTERVIEWED HIM IN EL SALVADOR AFTER THE CIVIL DISTURBANCES LAST WEEK. POSSIBLY THE CLINCHING ARGUMENT AGAINST SUCH A US VISIT WAS THE SPECTOR OF PRECEDENT. IN MARCH 1972 PRESIDENT-ELECT MOLINA WAS IN THE US ENROUTE TO ASIA. HE HAD TO ABORT THE TRIP AND RUSH HOME WHEN HE LEARNED OF A COUP ATTEMPT. ROMERO'S TRIP TO CA AND PANAMA WOULD KEEP HIM WITHIN CALLING DISTANCE OF HIS HOMELAND IN CASE OF TROUBLE. LUBENSKY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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